

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/090,740

Examiner

Kyle R. Stork

Applicant(s)

BASCOM, THOMAS LAYNE

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Request for Continued Examination filed 27 December 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16 and 18.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>62900201</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Sean Wooden on 6 March 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A system for publishing a first document object to users of a network, wherein the first document object is not previously available to users of the network, the system comprising:

means for accessing a first document object;

means for creating link relationships between document objects, wherein, when instructed, in response to accessing the first document object, the means for creating link relationships creates a link relationship between the first document object and a second document object, wherein the second document object is not previously available to users of the network and wherein the link relationships each identify a identifies the first document object, the a second document object, and one or more link relationship attributes describing relationships between the first document object and the second document object, and the link relationships are separate from the first document object and the second document object;

a directory that stores the link relationships;

means for distributing the link relationships to the users of the network, wherein the distributing means presents references based on the link relationships; and

means for enabling the users of the network to use the link relationships to retrieve the document objects not previously available on the network.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein a user of the network creates one or more link relationships, and the same user makes the second document object available to the users of the network by placing the document object on equipment electronically connected to the network.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method for creating access to a first document object to users of a network, wherein the first document object is not ~~available or not easily accessible by~~ to users of the network, the method comprising:

accessing a first document object;

in response to accessing the first document object, allowing a first user of the network to create a link relationship between the first document object and a second document object that is not accessible ~~available~~ to users of the network, wherein the link relationship identifies the first document object, the second document object, and one or more link relationship attributes describing relationships between the first document object and the second document object, and the link relationship is separate from the first document object and the second document object;

storing the link relationship in one or more link directories;

making the ~~first~~ second document object accessible to the users of the network;

providing the users of the network access to the link relationship; and

enabling the users of the network to use the link relationship to retrieve the ~~first~~ second document object, wherein the link relationship provides the users of the network with information relating the ~~first~~ second document object to the ~~second~~ first document object accessed by the users of the network.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein the step of providing the users of the network access to the link relationship comprises providing access to the link relationship only to authorized users.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 3, further comprising authorizing the users of the network to perform the allowing step .

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein the allowing step comprises:

- a first user creating or locating a first second document object not previously accessible ~~available~~ to other users of the network;

- the first user locating a ~~second~~ first document object on the network wherein the ~~second~~ first document object is related to the first second document object in some manner determined by the first user; and

- the first user creating a link relationship between the first document object and the second document object.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein the step of making the first second document object accessible to users of the network comprises:

- transmitting a copy of the first second document object to one or more servers;

- determining a storage location for the transmitted first second document object on one or more host computers associated with the one or more link directories storing the link relationship between the first document object and the second document object;

- assigning a network address to the first second document object stored on the one or more host computers;

- storing the network address for the first second document object in the link relationship; and

- storing the first second document object on the one or more host computers.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the first document object comprises annotated commentary created by the first user regarding the second document object.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 7, wherein the storage location for the first second document object on the one or more host computers is determined by a

user of the network responsible for managing the one or more link directories storing the link relationship.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 7, wherein the storage location for the ~~first~~ second document object on the one or more host computers is determined by the first user creating the link relationship.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising a step of targeting users of the network to which access to the link relationship will be provided by designating characteristics of the targeted users.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein the step of enabling users to use the link relationship to retrieve the ~~first~~ second document object comprises authorizing users to retrieve the ~~first~~ second document object.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein the first user is ~~also~~ responsible for the ~~second~~ first document object, and the first user is identified as responsible for the ~~second~~ first document object to other users of the network accessing the link relationship.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein the users accessing the ~~first~~ second document object are presented with the relationship created by the first user.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 7, wherein the network address for the ~~first~~ second document object is stored in a network address field of a link reference to the ~~first~~ second document object.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the created link relationship comprises a link reference including a network address containing a bookmark.

Claim 17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (previously presented): The system of claim 1 further comprising means for making document objects not previously located on the network accessible to the users of the network.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record, fails to teach or suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art creating a link

relationship between document objects between documents not previously available to users.

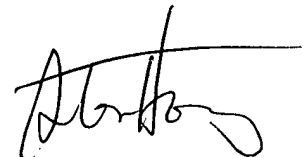
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyle R. Stork whose telephone number is (571) 272-4130. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kyle Stork
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2178



STEPHEN HONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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